

OCALA EVENING STAR

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BITTINGER & CARROLL, PROPRIETORS

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THE PROPOSED BOND ISSUE

Tomorrow the citizens of Ocala will vote on the proposed bond issue of \$305,000 for sewerage, street paving, improvement of the water works and a municipal ice factory and buildings for a civic center.

The Star began advocating bonds for the city over two years ago, saying at the time we had to have improvements, and could obtain them only one way, and that way to issue bonds. It hasn't changed its opinion in the least. It hasn't had much to say about the bond issue we will vote on tomorrow, and has therefore been called by some who don't understand it a mossback, an obstructionist and other pet names, which being old and war-worn in controversy it minds not in the least.

The Star hasn't said much about this issue for two reasons: One is, that being around among the people a good deal, and having plenty of friends among them, it has noticed that the voters had their minds mostly made up on the subject the day after the election was ordered and that few of them have changed their opinions since. Also, that each side believes the particular batch of facts that it wants to believe, and scolds at any other. We could easily confuse any argument put up by either side, but people who wanted to believe it would do so, all the same, so why should we worry?

Another reason is that while the Star desires a bond issue, and approves of most of the provisions of the one now before us, it does not approve of some of them, and could not conscientiously have voted for them in a bunch. The council has striven to unbunch them, and we hope it has succeeded, but we very much doubt it.

However, this is not what the Star is mostly concerned about. The point the Star wishes to make today is that we are having too much discussion and ill feeling on the question. This is not good for the city nor any individual. If we can do away with this, we can progress and thrive. If we do not, we will languish and lag. We have one of the best fits in past improvement. Nearly all are county. We should consider bonds from a strictly economic standpoint, apart from politics and personalities. We should decide tomorrow if it is better or worse for Ocala to have bonds or some bonds or no bonds and vote accordingly. Then we should accept the result in good humor and go on to the next thing.

Whatever else it has done or has not done, the Star rejoices that it has not done anything to contribute to ill feeling on either side. It is pretty well acquainted with all our citizens, and has often had occasion to brag of their public spirit. It sees no occasion to change its opinion on this subject. It is entirely certain that most of the men who are working for bonds do so because they believe they will be good for the town. They also have much reason for taking that side.

On the other hand, among the gentlemen who oppose bonds are many who have been foremost in the past in the matters that have gone to upbuild Ocala. They have aided not only by voice and vote but also by personal work and personal paying in past improvement. Nearly all are property holders, and if we issue bonds they will have to contribute a big proportion of the taxes. Therefore, they are strictly within their rights as citizens in opposing bonds. Calling them obstructionists and reactionaries has been discourteous, and hasn't made any votes for bonds.

Moreover, most of these citizens are in favor of bonds. Some of them do not think this a good time for a bond issue, and some, most of them, favor a part of the proposed issue.

There is hardly any voter in the city who isn't in favor of a sewerage system being put in at once. It is vital necessity and every day we delay brings us nearer to an epidemic. It keeps people away from Ocala to know we haven't a sewerage system, and it worries most of those who are here. The Star will

never stop advocating sewerage till a system is put in or it is dead.

Street improvement is also greatly needed. Nothing will add more to the attractiveness of the city than good streets. We are now going on building and rebuilding in a very unsatisfactory and expensive manner. The principal opposition to improving the streets at present comes from property holders who will have to bear a disproportionate amount of the expense, and feel that they are not now able to meet it. It must be remembered that the enthusiastic whoops for bonds of other communities, held up to Ocala as models, were made some months ago, before the present depression set in. The Star doubts very much that Lakeland, Bartow and other "progressive" cities would be in any great hurry to issue bonds for paving their streets at present.

Also, the opinion advanced that paving the streets will result in a great saving by doing away with the work of the street force is delusive. A hundred thousand dollars will not pave all the streets in Ocala, nor half of them. We will have to go on improving and repairing other streets, just as we do now. There may be a smaller bill for street work for a year or two, and then it will begin to grow again. This is not said in opposition to street improvement. It is simply stating a fact that the enthusiastic bond advocates have neglected to mention.

The civic center, with the handsome, new buildings, will be a mighty nice thing to have, and the Star thinks we should have it as soon as we are able. It is the most ornamental of the proposed improvements and the least necessary.

By all means we should improve the waterworks and electric plants. The Star favors their being combined in one big group of buildings on the city lot in the north of town, where we can have a pretty park and a big swimming pool, and their being equipped with up-to-date and labor-saving machinery.

We are not going to vote, however, for this item on the ticket. As far as the waterworks are concerned, we now have the bonds to the amount of \$55,000, made out almost two years ago, and lying idle now. The city government can sell these bonds as well as it can sell a new issue. It could and should have sold them nine months ago, when the bond market was in good shape, and could have had the new waterworks plant almost completed by this time. There has been no time that the people would not have voted the necessary money to also improve the electric plant. That this hasn't been done is the present council's big sin of omission.

As long as this \$55,000 in bonds remains unused, the city government can validate it, sell it and add it to the city debt any time it sees fit.

Another reason why these bonds could be used at once is that, while the council has the authority to use them, it has no authority to destroy them. They must be put to use or lie in the vaults until their time expires. And they are worth more to the city now than they will be next year or the year after, or any year that brings them nearer to the date of their expiration.

The Star opposes the proposed ice factory on principle—the principle being that the city shouldn't go into business where it injures a private citizen's business, unless there is some great and pressing necessity for so doing.

There is no such necessity here. We have an ice factory which is supplying ice at reasonable rates. The city can't supply it much cheaper unless it sells below cost, which would be bad business as well as bad principle.

It is considered by many that there is enough business in this territory for another ice factory, and it is likely that another will be started within the next few years; meantime, the one we have will steadily increase in business, add to its force, increase its payroll and continue to bring money into town.

If the city puts in an ice plant, no other private plant will come

here, and the one we have will be constantly harassed by the prospect of an opposition, which not being obliged to make a living, can put prices down any time a majority of the council sees fit. Could we expect any business to thrive under such conditions?

What private citizen would approve of the city setting up a business that would compete with his business, and could stunt or kill it any time he became obnoxious to a majority of the city council?

Why should the ice factory be picked out for competition? Ice is no more a public utility than meat, bread or clothes. You can buy more ice for a nickel or a dollar in Ocala today than you could buy for the same money twenty years ago. But flour costs more, meat costs twice as much, and clothing and shoes cost more. Why shouldn't the city set up a bakery, a butcher shop or a clothing store?

Kerosene and gasoline are about as much a public utility as ice, and they both cost more than they did twenty-five years ago. Why shouldn't the city establish a gasoline station for the benefit of our impoverished autoists?

Does anybody suppose that item would have been tacked on to the ordinance if any man interested in an ice factory had been on the council?

There is something funny about this ice factory item. Three of the councilmen have informed the Star that, if bonds carry, it will take the entire \$55,000 to improve the waterworks plant, and they do not favor a municipal ice plant anyhow. Yet we know a number of people who are going to vote for bonds more in hope of obtaining cheaper ice than for any other reason.

Any property holder may be certain that if the city ice plant is started and he obtains ice at a very low rate, he will have to pay for it in taxation. The only people who will be benefited will be those who have no taxes to pay.

A few months ago, the city electric plant was selling bulbs and other supplies at a very low rate. The electricians of the city complained, and the practice was stopped. The Star thought this was just and approved it, though in obtaining electric light bulbs from the city plant it saved considerable money. Is it any more fair for the city to hurt the business of the Ocala Ice & Packing Company than it is to hurt the business of Mr. Tucker or Mr. Bennett?

The case of Fernandina, which is made so much of, is not parallel to that of Ocala. Fernandina was threatened with the advent of a foreign corporation that would have gouged the people. Ocala is asked to hurt the business of a home company, which is selling ice at a reasonable rate.

As for the election of Wednesday, for improving the electric light plant, it is hardly worth while to argue about it. Everybody we have spoken to on the subject wants the electric light plant put in the best possible condition.

A strong argument for bonds is that now is the best time to issue them, for now is the time of all times that we need to have something doing in our town; that the work will bring in people, turn money loose and stimulate things generally. Our neighboring cities of Bartow, Orlando and Lakeland are held up to us as models, and our lack of enterprise in comparison is commented on mournfully.

All opposed to bonds say the proposed issue is too large in proportion to our resources, and even those who would gladly vote for a

part of it are opposed to all. They also call attention to the fact that Lakeland, Bartow and Orlando issued bonds at a time when the European war and the consequent depression was unheard of; also that the amounts they issued were smaller than that asked for in Ocala.

A number of people who are in favor of both sewerage and paving say, and with reason, that the sewerage system should be installed before paving work is commenced, and therefore bonds for paving should not be issued now to be drawing interest a year or more before the money should be used.

There is in fact much reason and good sense on both sides, and the matter should be played out as impartially and impersonally as a game in which the best hand wins and neither side feels aggrieved.

Whatever the result of tomorrow's election may be, let us accept it in good humor and make the best of it. If the entire bond issue is voted, it will be a heavy load to carry, but we don't think it will break Ocala down. We can't have improvements without paying for them. If the bond issue is defeated, let the council note what the people favor most and draw another ordinance for another election. And if we have to have another election, let us avoid the mistakes and bickerings that have preceded this one.

A little more concessions on all sides, a little more appreciation of each other, added to the magnificent public spirit that many in Ocala already possess, would put our city up in front where it belongs. Let us see if we can't revive the splendid spirit that Ocala showed in the gallant fight for the state capital fourteen years ago. That fight was lost, but it was worth while to make it for the waking up and getting together it gave us.

THE BETTER DAY

From the ridiculous to the sublime, to reverse Napoleon's saying, is but a single step, and Walt Mason, one of our champion humorists, starting out in the following to make a laugh, arrives to the sublime in his last sentence or two:

When the world is sick of killing and the nations tired of gore, man will draw his daily shilling, as a butcher never more. He'll get down to useful labor, softly saying, "Why the deuce should I shoot my next door neighbor, with no reason or excuse?" When this graft of wholesale murder, relic of dark days, shall cease man will use his strength to further all the gentle arts of peace. Then disarmed will be the legions and the sun will smile at morn on the quiet fertile regions where we'll raise our kaffir corn. Then the gun, which like a crater, belches fire and fury now, will become a cultivator, or, perhaps, a three horse plow. Captains then, who "give no quarter," kings with terror in their looks, shall convert the gun and mortar into scythes and pruning hooks. Then no more shall foolish trifles call the nations into fray, and we'll turn our quick-draw rifles into tools for pitching hay. So this present catadym, shocking though it be, and vast, we may view with optimism, since it's apt to be the last. When the soldiers have dismounted from their chargers, scarred and thin, when the corpses have been counted, and the blood has measured been, drums of war will throb no longer, flags of battle will be furled, and the weaker and the stronger hand in hand will walk the world.

PUNK PAMPHLETS

The Sun has received one of the books which Frank M. Thomas is distributing on his automobile trip throughout the Eastern states. He held out promises to the state of Florida and which would occupy a place for all time on the reading or library table of any club—and in clubs he proposed to place the book.

Thomas has issued the cheapest sort of an advertising pamphlet with 36 pages of display advertising and 4 pages of outline maps and text.

The book is one that would be gathered by the janitor in any club and consigned to the cellar or the paperbaler within twenty-four hours after being placed in any club.

Yet advertisers of Florida gave up more than \$9,000 to Thomas for 10,000 copies, estimated, of this advertising pamphlet, and for what? To allow Thomas to galivant about the country in a Pullman automobile car, trading on the fact that he is the official representative of the state of Florida.

Ye Gods—how long is Florida to be bled?

Answer—Just as long as influential citizens who do not know advertising from asbestos, will lend their names and support to any publicity scheme presented them.—Clearwater Sun.

Ocala and Marion county, in the Star's opinion, are weaned of that

HOOKS | KITCHEN | TOOLS |

STOVE POLISH	HANGERS	HINGES	PLIERS	PAD LOCKS
SCREWS	STAPLES	HASPS & KEYS		
TACKS	AWLS	FILES	TWINE	PICTURE WIRE
TACKS	TACKS	BITS	WIRE	
NAILS	NAILS			

WE'VE GOT IT

IF YOU WILL COME STRAIGHT TO US WHEN YOU NEED ANYTHING IN THE HARDWARE LINE YOU WILL SAVE YOURSELF THE TROUBLE OF "LOOKING AROUND"

WE WILL "HAVE IT" FOR YOU AND THE PRICE WILL BE LOW.

WE HAVE BEEN HAMMERING AWAY AT THE HARDWARE BUSINESS A LONG TIME, AND OUR BUSINESS METHODS NAIL CUSTOMERS TO US WHEN THEY ONCE BUY FROM US.

MARION HARDWARE CO.

Phone 118.

OCALA,

FLORIDA



DON'T RUIN YOUR EYES

DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH YOUR EYES. A LITTLE CORRECTION AT THIS TIME MAY SAVE YEARS OF TROUBLE IN THE FUTURE. COME IN NOW AND HAVE YOUR EYES TESTED BY AN EXPERT. THIS EXAMINATION IS FREE. IF YOU DON'T NEED GLASSES WE WILL TELL YOU SO. IF YOU DO NEED GLASSES WE WILL SELL YOU THE CORRECT ONES AT A PRICE THAT WILL SATISFY YOU. BUT "DON'T RUIN YOUR EYES."

A. E. BURNETT RELIABLE JEWELER

OCALA, FLORIDA

The Laundry That Makes Ocala Famous

To a Person Who Prides Himself on His Appearance

Clean, Fresh, Well Laundered Linen is a necessity. To supply that necessity is Our Business.

Ocala Steam Laundry

402-404 S. Main Street

Phone 101.

OCALA, FLORIDA

sort of foolishness. Thanks mostly to the Board of Trade, and, we think, a little bit to the Star, they are putting what money they have for advertising to the most effective use. The Star began knocking on shoddy advertising some years ago and keeps its little hammer ready for every scheme of the kind that shows up.

PONY BUGGY WANTED

Wanted, a second hand pony cart or buggy. Must be in good condition and quite a light one. Apply at Star office. 10-15-14

FROZEN MINTS the new chewing gum at KREGER'S. 10-5

TELEGRAPH OPERATORS WILL HAVE MORE LEISURE TIME

On account of depression of business the Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies' office hours, on Sunday, will be from 8 to 10 a. m., and 4 to 6 p. m.

C. K. Sage, Mgr. W. U. Tel. Co. A. T. Joiner, Mgr. Postal Tel. Co.

OPEN DAY AND NIGHT

Merchant's Cafe, J. C. L. depot corner. Meals a la carte and lunches at any hour.—Adv.

The Little Brownie is the latest picture machine. At Gerig's drug-store. \$1.25. 10-19-14